



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
Sept. 18, 2009

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

#### **North Dakota Department of Health Schedules News Conference To Highlight Importance of Newborn Screening**

BISMARCK, N.D. – A news conference to discuss the importance of newborn screening will be held Monday, Sept. 21, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at MeritCare Health System, 801 N. Broadway, Fargo, N.D.

Media are asked to meet MeritCare media relations in the main lobby at 1:30 p.m.

In North Dakota, newborns are screened for more than 40 disorders and conditions, including cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, and phenylketonuria (PKU). Some of the disorders are rare, and early identification and treatment are vital to the health of the baby.

Chris and Sarah Hawley, North Dakota parents whose daughter Amelia was identified with a rare disorder through newborn screening, will be featured at the news conference. Other speakers include:

- State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D., North Dakota Department of Health
- Dr. Alan Kenien, pediatric endocrinologist, MeritCare Health System
- Barb Schweitzer, R.N., Newborn Screening Program director, North Dakota Department of Health

For more information about the news conference, contact Loreeta Canton at 701.328.1665 or Stacy Eberl at 701.328.4619.

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